

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/517,241 <b>Examiner</b> Bryce P. Bonzo	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MUTH, MATTHIAS <b>Art Unit</b> 2113
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--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to the Applicant as filed.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10.
3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 12/7/04
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

*Bryce P. Bonzo*  
BRYCE P. BONZO  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 1-10 are allowed. These claims compass material when viewed as a whole, not seen in the prior art. Below the limitations which when viewed against the prior art are italicized. Applicant is reminded that the claims are allowed a whole, and while one portion maybe highlighted, it is the synergism between the limitations that is allowed.

1. A method of detecting the ground offset of parts of a network system, more particularly of testing the ground contact between network control units, where data are sent and received over at least one bus system, characterized in

[a] that in the idle state of at least one bus line (10, 12) provided for receiving data and/or of at least one receiver line (24), after a predefinable first time period has elapsed, the level voltage (14) of this at least one bus line (10, 12) is scanned and compared with at least one predefinable limit or reference potential value (80),

[b] that if the limit or reference potential value (80) is exceeded, at least one ground error signal (82) is generated, and

*[c] that in dependence on the fact whether until a predefinable second time period has elapsed, which is started at the same time as the predefinable first time period and is longer than the predefinable first time period,*

*[c.1] the idle state of the at least one bus line (10, 12) or of the at least one receiver line (24) is still there, or*

*[c.2] the idle state of the at least one bus line (10, 12) or of the at least one receiver line (24) is no longer there, the ground error signal is acknowledged or not acknowledged, respectively.*

5. A circuit arrangement (100) for detecting the ground offset of parts of a network system, more particularly for checking ground contact between network control units while data can be sent and received over at least one bus system, characterized by at least one comparator unit (70) which is assigned to at least one bus line (10, 12) provided for the received data and leading to at least one receiver unit (20), while in the idle state of this at least one bus line (10, 12) and/or at least one receiver line (24) connected downstream of the receiver unit (20), after a first time period has elapsed that can be predefined by at least a first timer unit (30), the level voltage (14) of this at least one bus line (10, 12) can be scanned and compared to at least one predefinable limit or reference potential value (80) by means of the comparator unit (70), at least a first switch or trigger element (40) connected downstream of the first timer unit (30) for buffering at least one ground error signal (82) produced by the comparator unit (70) when the limit or reference potential value (80) is exceeded, *at least a second switch or trigger element (60) connected downstream of at least a second timer unit (50) for taking over or transferring the ground error signal (82) for the case where the idle state of the at least one bus line (10, 12) or of the at least one receiver line (24) still exists until a second time period that can be predefined by the second timer unit (50) has elapsed, which second time period is started at the same*

*time as the predefinable first time period and lasts longer than the predefinable first time period.*